

**TOM MARINO**

10TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
REGULATORY REFORM, COMMERCIAL AND  
ANTITRUST LAW

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

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FCC Mail Room

**Congress of the United States**

**House of Representatives**

**Washington, DC 20515-3810**

May 17, 2017

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Chairman Ajit Pai  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Chairman Pai:

On April 19, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PaPUC), along with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PaDCED), jointly filed a petition requesting that the FCC make a minor modification to its recently promulgated Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF II) auction formula. I want to express my support for this joint petition and hope that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will approve this petition.

Pennsylvania's 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional district, which I represent in Congress, is expansive and rural covering all or part of 15 counties. In three of the counties that I represent- Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Juniata- more than 50% of residents do not have access to broadband services. This is in stark contrast to urban areas in the state where only 3% of residents do not have access. Broadband access is more important than ever to the education, employment, and economic development of my constituents.

The PaPUC-PaDCED joint petition asks that the FCC reconsider certain aspects of its CAF II auction rules. The FCC should narrowly modify or waive these rules to ensure the effectiveness, efficiency, and fairness of the auction rules for Pennsylvania and the 10<sup>th</sup> District. Pennsylvania is a net-contributor into the Federal Universal Service Fund and this money should be coming back into Pennsylvania, regardless of what an incumbent carrier decides.

I hope that you approve this joint petition and provide much needed resources for my constituents, and other residents of rural Pennsylvania, to improve access to broadband services. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to me or my staff.

Sincerely,

Tom Marino  
Member of Congress





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

June 20, 2017

The Honorable Tom Marino  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2242 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Marino:

Thank you for your letter in support of a petition for reconsideration filed by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, which requests a modification to the Connect American Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process rules. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

The Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB) sought public comment on the petition for reconsideration, and the comment cycles on the matter have been completed. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding. I can assure you that we will take into consideration the issues and concerns presented by all stakeholders as the Commission makes every effort to conclude its review as quickly and equitably as possible.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Ajit V. Pai".

Ajit V. Pai